CORTE MADERA CREEK PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Greenbrae, CA

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

MARIN COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
ALEX HINDS, DIRECTOR

US Army Corps of Engineers ®
San Francisco District

Meeting Purpose

To give the public an opportunity to provide input on the scope of the joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) and features of the Corte Madera Creek project.

Presentation Outline

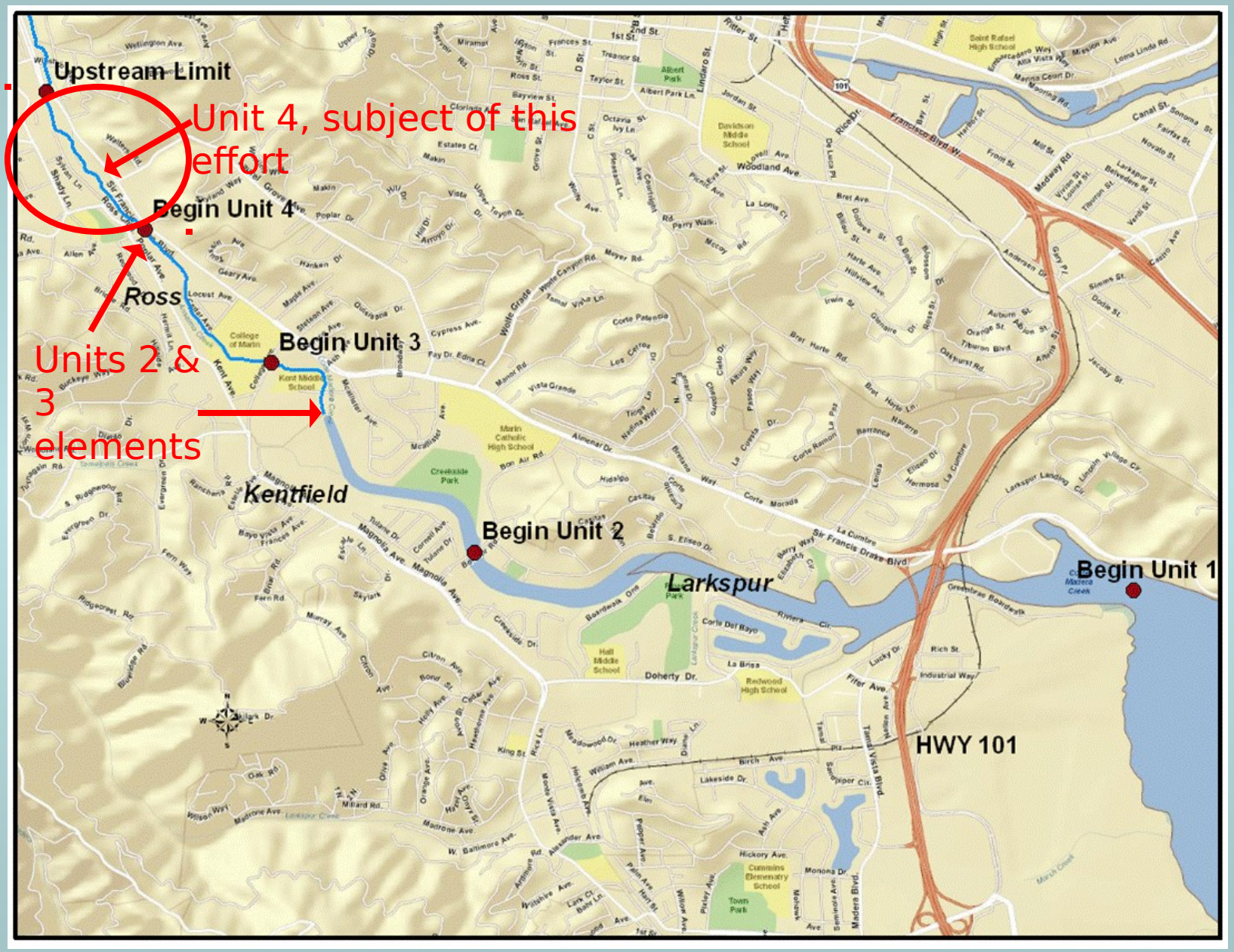
- Study Area
- Background
- Project Scope
- Corps Planning Process
- EIS/EIR and Environmental Considerations
- Preliminary Design Considerations
- Public Discussion

Study Area

- Located in southeastern Marin County, Corte Madera Creek extends from the San Francisco Bay through the towns of Corte Madera, Larkspur, Kentfield, and Ross

- Unit 4 of Corte Madera Creek extends from upstream end of existing concrete channel to Sir Francis Drake Boulevard Bridge at the upstream boundary of the Town of Ross

- Unit 4 changes may require elements in Units 2 & 3 (raised flood walls for increased flow; and improved fish passage)

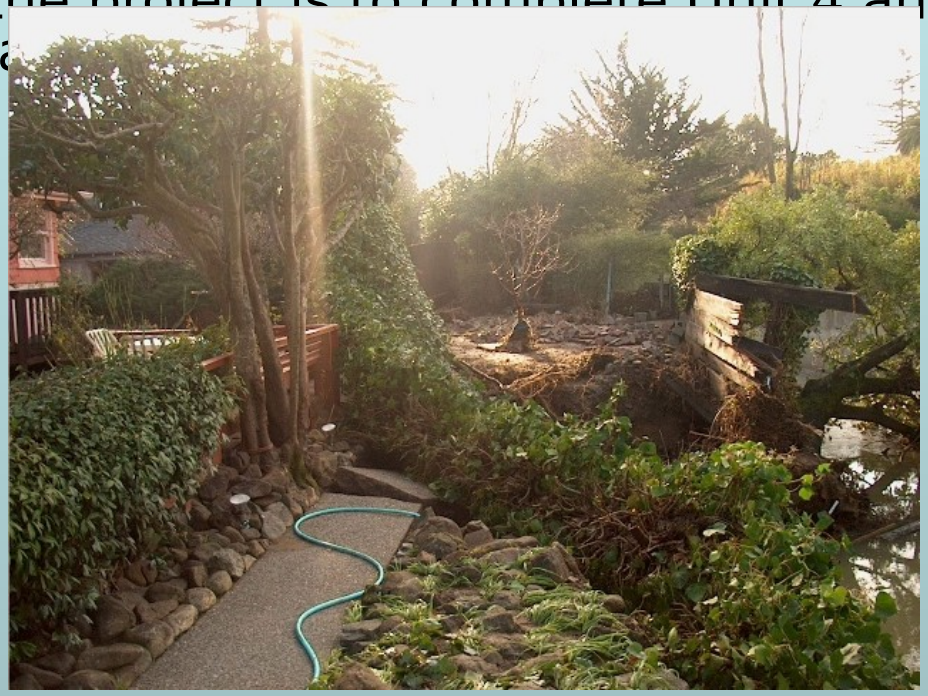

Upstream Limit
Unit 4, subject of this effort
Begin Unit 4
Ross
Units 2 & 3 elements
Begin Unit 3
Kentfield
Begin Unit 2
Larkspur
Begin Unit 1
HWY 101

Background

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the federal partner, Marin County is the non-federal partner
- Originally authorized by Congress through the Flood Control Act of 1962
- Study area is comprised of 4 reaches: Units 1, 2, and 3 channel modifications were completed in 1971
- Public concerns led to delay in planned actions for Unit 4
- Congress removed upstream units (in San Anselmo & Fairfax) from the project in 1986

Background continued…

- Marin County requested completion of the project in 1996
- Damages incurred by December 2005 flood and additional technical studies have renewed interest in completing the project
- Purpose of the project is to complete Unit 4 and provide flood risk ma



Background continued…

- Local interests support a project that provides a level of protection that is less than the 1% flood reoccurrence as long as it minimizes impacts to the existing creek habitat

- Current flood protection plans have been designed to contain an event with a 3% chance return period of approximately 5,400 cubic feet per second (cfs)

Project Scope

- We are currently in the General Re-evaluation Report phase – where we evaluate methods to complete the remainder of an existing project

- The Corps is investigating alternatives for channel modifications to Unit 4 of Corte Madera Creek and associated modifications to Units 2 & 3 to convey increased flows and allow fish passage

- The Corps has collaborated with Marin County (watershed planning), the Friends of Corte Madera Creek (design concepts), and the Town of Ross & Zone 9 Marin County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (design reviews & approvals)

Corps Planning Process

Reconnaissance	Feasibility	Pre-Construction, Engineering, & Design	Construction	Operations & Maintenance
• Completed in 1940s	• 1962-1966	• 1966-1967	• 1968-1971 • 65% federal funding • 35% local funding	• As long as project operates • 100% local funding

General Reevaluation Report	General Reevaluation Report	Programming	Construction	Operations & Maintenance
• Phase 1: 1999-2002 • Culvert from Bridge to Concrete Channel eliminated	• Phase 2: 2003-2009/10 • Designs, environmental review, & complete cost estimates	• Complete Report with Engineering Study & EIS/EIR • Congress appropriates funding	• 1 year (expected) • 65% federal funding • 35% local funding	• Operations begin once project is complete • 100% local funding

*Actual schedule is dependent on funding allocation

Preparation of the Joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR)

During the ***General Re-evaluation Report*** phase, we will be working in cooperation with Marin County to prepare a Joint EIS/EIR:

- Evaluate all reasonable alternatives
- Ensure that the most economically and environmentally justified project is recommended for construction

Environmental Considerations

We will coordinate with other agencies in evaluating the following:

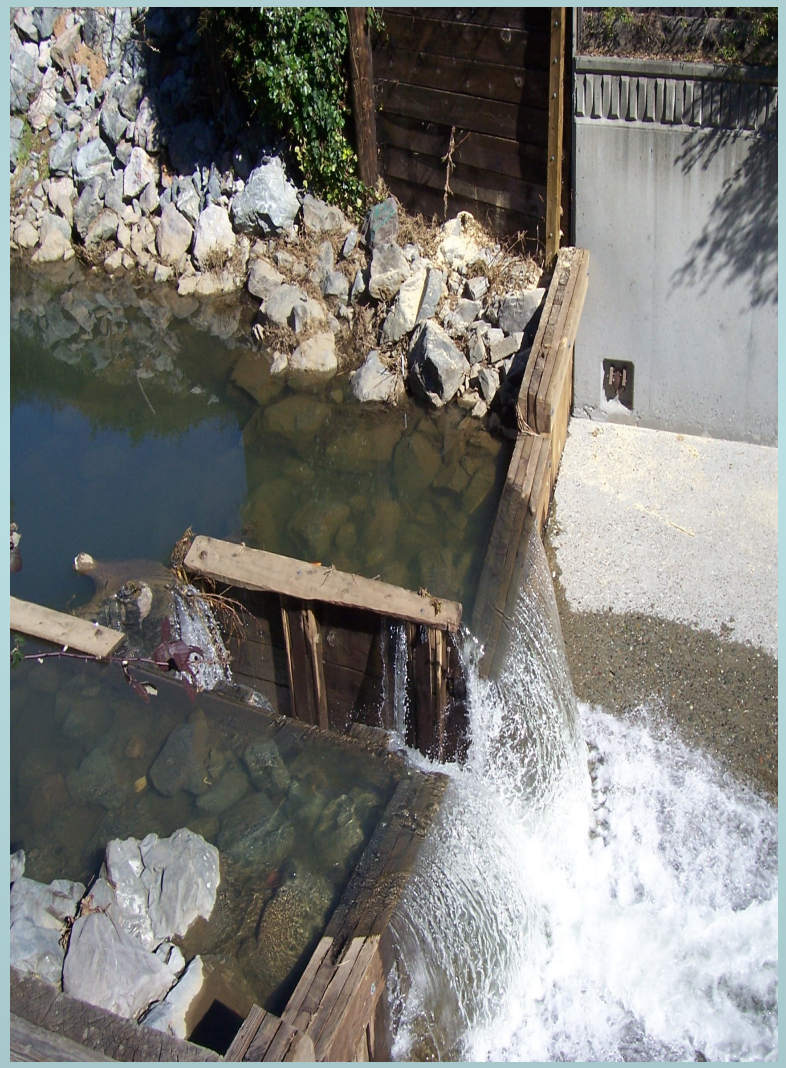
- Fish passage
- Riparian habitat
- Water quality
- Air quality
- Land use and planning
- Geophysical impacts
- Recreation and aesthetics
- Cultural resources
- Transportation
- Noise
- Other (from scoping comments, agency coordination, etc.)

Photo courtesy of NOAA Fisheries

Preliminary Design Considerations

Current possible project features may include, but are not limited to:

1. Remove existing poorly functioning fish ladder
2. Create transition between Unit 3 concrete channel and natural bottom Unit 4
3. Improve fish passage between Units 3 and 4
4. Construct riffle-and-weir boulder field transition between Units 3 and 4
5. Maintain natural bottom creek
6. Replace existing retaining walls behind homes, perhaps with some land purchase
7. Install grade control upstream from Lagunitas Road Bridge



Preliminary Design Considerations

Current possible project features - continued:

8. Widen channel next to Post Office
9. Create top-of-bank floodwalls
10. Add retaining walls next to Post Office
11. Install partial retaining walls that avoid native trees
12. Use biotechnical bank stabilization techniques
13. Increase floodwalls in Units 2 & 3 for additional flow from Unit 4
14. Add resting pools in Units 2 & 3 for fish passage

Public Discussion

- We ask that comments be limited to 3-4 minutes to give every person who completed a speaker card a chance to speak
- Written comments may be submitted at the conclusion of this meeting or mailed, emailed, or faxed by August 11, 2008
- Verbal comments may be recorded by the court reporter after this presentation

Even if you decide not to speak tonight, you can provide written comments for incorporation into the study

Department of the Army

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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-- Comment period closes August 11, 2008 --